

Message Text

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22-11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMCONSUL IZMIR

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1478

COMSIXTHFLT UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, TU

SUBJ: VISIT OF USS LITTLE ROCK TO IZMIR

1. THE U.S.S. LITTLE ROCK (CG-4) WITH VICE ADMIRAL FREDERICK C. TURNER, COMMANDER U.S. SIXTH FLEET, EMBARKED, MADE AN INFORMAL CALL AT IZMIR NOVEMBER 17-20. THE EXPERIENCE OF THIS FIRST U.S. NATIONAL, AS OPPOSED TO NATO-RELATED, VISIT IN A NUMBER OF MONTHS APPEARS TO CONFIRM THAT IZMIR REMAINS A SUITABLE PORT FOR SUCH CALLS. COMSIXTHFLT WAS WARMLY RECEIVED BY MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS AND THE SHIP'S COMPLEMENT FOUND AMPLE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ASHORE WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING HOSTILITY OR PROVOKING POLITICAL

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REACTION.

2. TURKISH ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE COMMANDERS WERE GENEROUS IN HONORS AND HOSPITALITY EXTENDED TO ADMIRAL TURNER. GOVENOR MUSTAFA UYGUR APPARENTLY FELT OBLIGED TO OBSERVE DURING THE PROTOCOL CALL AT THIS OFFICE THAT IZMIR HAD BEEN EVEN MORE HOSPITABLE TO AMERICAN SAILORS BEFORE THE 1964 "JOHNSON LETTER." NEVERTHELESS, THE GOVENOR REACTED POSITIVELY TO ADMIRAL TURNER'S FRIENDLY
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APPROACH AND SEEMED TO ME SOMEWHAT UNCHARACTERISTICALLY

JOVIAL WHEN PARTICIPATING IN THE TWO MAIN SOCIAL EVENTS IN COMSIXTHFLT'S HONOR. IZMIR'S EBULLIENT MAYOR IS CURRENTLY ON A VISIT TO SOUTH AMERICA, SO THAT THE CALL BY THE LITTLE ROCK'S CAPTAIN AT CITY HALL WAS A BLAND AFFAIR.

3. THE PRESENCE OF 500 SAILORS AT A TIME ASHORE PRODUCED NO UNTOWARD INCIDENTS WE HAVE HEARD OF, BUT DID YIELD GRATIFYING BUSINESS FOR LOCAL MERCHANTS.

4. THE VISIT RECEIVED VERY SCANT MENTION IN THE LOCAL PRESS. IT MAY BE THAT THE POLICE, OUT OF PRUDENCE, HAD CAUTIONED JOURNALISTS NOT TO ATTRACT ATTENTION TO THE PRESENCE OF THE U.S. SHIP, OR THAT A NAVAL VISIT IS JUST NOT THAT MUCH

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NEWS IN IZMIR.

5. WHEN I DISCUSSED THE PENDING VISIT WITH THE ACTING CHIEF OF POLICE LAST WEEK HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE ANY SERIOUS PROBLEMS ARISING FROM OCCASIONAL U.S. SHIP VISITS. HE SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT WHEREVER POSSIBLE, THESE VISITS NOT BE IN PROGRESS ON WEEKENDS, SINCE NOW SEEMS TO BE THE SEASON FOR DEMONSTRATIONS, WHICH IN MOST CASES ARE PLANNED FOR SATURDAYS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SCHOOL AND WORK HOLIDAYS. THIS APPEARS TO BE SOUND ADVICE.

MOFFETT

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